UBC | UNION OF THE BALTIC CITIES

UNION OF THE BALTIC CITIES
96TH MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD
Tallinn, 11-13 May 2026

AGENDA as of 05.05.2026

1. Welcome by the Mayor of Tallinn, followed by video introduction to Tallinn.
Opening of the meeting by UBC President and adoption of the agenda. Election of two persons who, together with the President, will check the minutes.

2. Applications from Kirkkonummi, Boiarka, Kalush, AFCC.

UBC has received applications from Kirkkonummi, Finland; Boiarka and Kalush, Ukraine; and Association of Frontline Cities and Communities (AFCC) to join UBC. The applications are attached.

Kirkkonummi is located on the coast of the Baltic Sea in southern part of Finland, about 30 km from Helsinki. The current population is 42 000 and total area is 393 km^2. In 2030 Kirkkonummi will be celebrating 700 anniversary. Due to its historical connection to the Baltic Sea and especially Estonia and Sweden, Kirkkonummi seeks to refresh contacts with other cities.

Boiarka is a city in Kyiv Oblast. The city's population was estimated 35 000 (2021) and total area is about 13 km^2. The community combines urban and surrounding rural areas and actively implements modern approaches to local governance, public investment management and strategic planning. Boiarka has practical experience in preparing and implementing international and national projects in the fields of culture, education, youth policy, environmental sustainability and local economic development.

Kalush is a dynamic and rapidly developing city in western Ukraine, strongly committed to European values. The city's population was estimated 65 000 (2022) and total area is 65 km^2. Despite challenges posed by Russia's full-scale invasion, Kalush continues to implement innovative projects, deepen international partnerships and strengthens the capacity for sustainable growth. The city can share its experience in crisis management, community resilience, climate-related policies, citizen participation and international partnership.

Association of Frontline Cities and Communities is an interregional platform uniting around 300 municipalities from the regions most affected by Russian aggression. Members include communities from Kharkiv, Sumy, Chernihiv, Donetsk, Dnipropetrovsk, Zaporizhzhia, Mykolaiv, Kherson, Odesa and Poltava regions. Facing daily Russian attacks, frontline communities have come together to protect people and jointly work on the recovery of Ukraine's frontline territories — the country's defensive strongholds.

Proposal:
The Board to accept and Kikkonummi as a Member City, Boiarka and Kalush as UBC Associated Cities and Association of Frontline Cities and Communities as UBC Partner.

3. Proposal to hold the XIX UBC General Conference in Rakvere, Estonia, in autumn 2027.
Presentation of the City.

4. Current projects with UBC as partner – update.

Decarbomile - project financed by HORIZON programme, aims to trigger an unprecedented improvement of the green last mile logistics in Europe. UBC is a project partner. To reach that goal, DECARBOMILE relies on a strong experience of decarbonating urban logistics through European initiatives such as CIVITAS. Partners build upon all previous results to develop improved delivery methods, tools and methodologies, and implement them across Europe. The solutions developed in DECARBOMILE demonstrate the full potential of decarbonised last mile logistics in four living labs (in Logrono – Spain, Nantes -France, Hamburg – Germany and Istanbul – Turkey) and 4 satellites (Tallinn – Estonia, Getafe – Spain, Ghent – Belgium and Sarajevo – Bosnia and Herzegovina) are involved at a smaller scale to test and study the solution in their own local contexts.
Partners:
four universities (TUHH, CBS, IMT, SCU), nine SMEs (IT, CAPIT, TMTX, GGI, NGS, TRI, INT, FLEXI, EQY), two industrial partners (MIGROS, DPDHL), and 16 public organisations (HAM, NMS, LGN, NANTES, IMM, TLN, GETAFE, GISA, SARA, ITA, OHB, LIHH, UBC, CARA, ID4Mobility, RCXB)
Budget: 9 562 521,25 EUR
Financing: HORIZON Europe
https://decarbomile.eu/

FURBSR - We all face global challenges, but their impact varies greatly from city to city. Climate change, new technologies, and geopolitical shifts may be global in scale, but
they play out locally in very different ways. That's why it is so important to look ahead – to anticipate risks, explore opportunities, and plan for the future. A new UBC project on Foresight on Urban Risks will help Baltic Sea Region cities work together to plan ahead, build capacity, and create a safer and more resilient region.
Partners:
Cities: Gdańsk, Klaipeda, Riga, Talinn, Umeå, Ystad
Platform Host: Union of the Baltic Cities (UBC)
Foresight Facilitation: Nordic Urban Resilience Institute (NURI)
Budget:
Financing: SI Baltic Sea Neighbourhood Programme
https://www.nordicresilience.com/

MariEx - Creating new Maritime Experience Points and marketing narratives for land tourists to renew the maritime destination profile of the South Baltic area. In order to do so, it is high time to find alternative ways to supply holiday guests with the authentic maritime experiences they appreciate. Potentials in this regard have e.g. marinas, small boater stops or commercial ports. Challenges are thereby to find a proper balance between the wishes of the land tourists and the needs of their "genuine" users, so that the maritime character of the places can be kept alive in an authentic way. MariEx was established to address the above-mentioned challenges, by creating new kinds of maritime experience points (MEPs), and to take them up into the "narratives" of the touristic marketing towards holiday tourists staying at the coast or in its hinterlands.
Partners:
Association of Sea Cities and Municipalities, Administration of Klaipėda District, Darłowo, Association Klaipeda Region, Union of the Baltic Cities (UBC), Kröslin, Hörte Harbour Association, VisitSydsjælland-Møn A/S
Budget: 2 297 594,58 EUR

Financing: INTERREG South Baltic
https://southbaltic.eu/projects-and-success-stories/mariex-creating-new-maritime-experience-points-marketing-narratives-for-land-tourists-to-renew-the-maritime-destination-profile-of-the-south-baltic-area/

IN-HABIT - The Inclusive Housing and Accessibility for Belonging, Independence, and Transformation (IN-HABIT) project focuses on the issue of providing inclusive and affordable housing for people with disabilities. IN-HABIT aims to identify skill gaps in housing services across the EU. While lack of sufficient funding could be an important issue, so is lack of required knowledge. The project deems it necessary, to collect and consolidate good practices in building inclusive housing and person-centred social support. The project will proliferate essential knowledge and enhance the capacity to support people with disabilities from housing professionals, service providers and local authorities.
Partners:
EASPD (Belgium), Eurhonet (Belgium), Petagma (Greece), ETA (Hungary), DFI Ireland (Ireland), UBC (Poland), ACER Reggio Emilia (Italy), Delphis (France)
Budget: 400 000 EUR
Financing: Erasmus+
https://easpd.eu/project-detail/in-habit/

5. Information from the UBC Task Force on Ukraine.

In 2026, the UBC Task Force on Ukraine (TFU) will implement a structured annual plan designed to strengthen the ability of Ukrainian municipalities to engage in EU accession reforms, access European funding, and ensure their priorities are represented at the European level.

TFU engaged in the cooperation with the Association of Frontline Cities and Communities of Ukraine. It will expand the scope of support beyond UBC Associated Cities to include members of the Frontline Association. This will enable frontline municipalities to access capacity-building for EU project development, funding information, networking opportunities, and EU-level advocacy. Throughout the year, the Task Force will map existing initiatives, programs, and project schemes that support institutional development of Ukrainian Associated Cities.

An online networking conference will be organized in June 2026. The event will bring together Ukrainian cities and European partners to share experiences and good practices. The Task Force will also track key milestones in Ukraine's EU accession process and maintain a calendar of major political events to ensure timely representation of local government perspectives.

6. Next meeting of the Executive Board, Greifswald, 22 October 2026.

The documents (attachments) are available at: https://ubc.net/documents/executive-board-meeting-documents/96th-executive-board-meeting-tallinn-11-13-may-2026/